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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

DATE: February 23, 2006

TO: School Food Authorities

FROM: Christine Emerson, Director, School Nutrition Programs

SUBJECT: Denying Meals as Punishment

USDA policy prohibits the denial of meals as disciplinary action against any student who is enrolled in a school participating in the School Nutrition Programs.

According to FNS Instruction 791-1, "Disciplinary action which indirectly results in the loss of meals or milk is allowable (e.g. a student is suspended from school). However, when the withholding of meals or milk is the disciplinary action; or if the disciplinary action directly results in the loss of meals or milk, it is inconsistent with the law and is not allowable (e.g., a student is suspended for school during the meal or milk period only).

**School Food Authorities shall make a reimbursable meal or milk available to any child attending school who, for disciplinary reasons, is not allowed to eat in the cafeteria."**

If you have any questions, please contact School Nutrition Programs at (406) 444-2501.